

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application, new claims 9-12 having been added as indicated herein. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 9-225975 (JP'975) in view of German Patent No. 69,416,356 (GP'356) or Buzzell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,187,247), hereinafter referred to as Buzzell.

As a preliminary matter, the specification is objected to, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicant amends the specification, as indicated herein.

Also, the drawings are objected to, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant submits herewith a corrected Fig. 6, thereby identifying the crankshaft. No new matter has been added

**§ 103(a) Rejections (JP'975 / GP'356 or Buzzell) - Claims 1-8**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner admits that the primary reference JP'975 does not disclose "defined convex portions forming recesses of wall thickness at portions not serving as sealing faces of the seal member," however the Examiner alleges that either GP'356 or Buzzell makes up for the deficiencies of JP'975. Applicant traverses these rejection at least for the following reasons.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 5, Applicant submits that neither GP'356 nor Buzzell make up for the deficiencies of JP'975 at least for the following reasons. First, with respect to Buzzell, Applicant submits that the cited reference Buzzell relates to fastener elements and, in particular, to mold releasing of a molding (product) provided with undercut. Buzzell, however, does not relate to the claimed seal member. Similarly, GP'356 does not specifically relate to a seal member, but is only generally directed to an apparatus and method for locally

pressurized ejection molding and is not concerned about injection molding specifically with respect to a seal member. Further, to the extent that Buzzell discloses concavities, it is noted that these are functional elements (i.e., hooks) of the molded product and are not located on the “back side” (here, opposite the sealing face) of the molded product.

Further, Applicant submits that one skilled in the art, in view of the applied references, would not have been led to combine Buzzell or GP’356 with JP’975, to arrive at applicant’s invention at least for the reasons set forth above. That is, neither Buzzell nor GP’356 are directed to an injection molding apparatus for a seal member, as recited in claims 1 and 5. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 5 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that claims 2-4 and 6-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 5.

Finally, Applicant adds new claims 9-13 to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that new claims 9-13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 5, respectively. Further, with respect to claims 11 and 12, Applicant submits that the prior art does not teach or suggest that recesses or concave portions are formed only for a purpose of increasing friction between the seal member and the moving mold. For example, the concavities of Buzzell, which, in part, form the hook portions thereof, are located on a functional part of the molded element of Buzzell, and are not formed only for the purpose of increasing the friction of the seal member. On the other hand, in the present invention, as recited in claims 11 and 12, the recesses or concave portions are formed on a part of the seal member only for the purpose of increasing friction of the seal member.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. APPLICATION NO.: 09/964,694

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

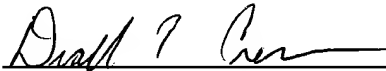
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